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IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: NAGAHISA, Hiroto et al. Conf.: 9944
Appl. No.: 09/579,891 Group: 2613
Filed: May 26, 2000 Examiner: Ian J. LOBO
For: IMAGE COLLECTION APPARATUS AND METHOD

STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW

MS AF

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

February 25, 2004

RECEIVED

FEB 27 2004

Sir:

Technology Center 2600

This is a Statement of the Substance of the Interview, in accordance with the practices under MPEP §713.04.

In a telephone interview conducted on February 11, 2004, between the Examiner and Applicants' representative, Clint A. Gerdine, Reg. No. 41,035, the following was discussed:

The Examiner called Applicants' representative regarding Applicants' request for reconsideration as presented by the amendment filed on 1/30/2004. After a discussion, the Examiner and Applicants' representative reached an agreement on the following:

- 1) The Examiner conceded that Fig. 32 does not seem to constitute prior art;
- 2) the Examiner will conduct an updated search including a full translation of Japanese Patent 10240774; and

- 3) Applicants' representative elected to withdraw claims 17-19 from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention to maintain the broadest scope of the remaining claims.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By Clint A. Gerdine
Clint A. Gerdine, Reg.#41,035

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